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Llandyssul Rural District Council

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M.O.H. Report for 1925

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To the Ministry of Health and Members of the Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour of submitting to your attention my report for 1925. That it comes rather late is due to quite unavoidable causes. I have so exhaustively dealt with the geographical data of the district in recent reports that I need not recapitulate them. There are no geographical or industrial changes—the district is purely Agricultural, with the exception of 2 small towns (Llandyssul and Newcastle Emlyn—the Adpar section), which are market centres for Agricultural produce—and there are also a few small straggling villages and two small seaside resorts, Llangranog and Tresaith—the 2 latter being pleasant little out of the way refuges from Railways, Cinemas and Pierrots where the rugged picturesque cliffs of Cardigan Bay may be enjoyed in all their native majestic grandeur. Unfortunately the accommodation of these small resorts is limited. In the summer the sanitary regime of Llangranog especially is deplorable.

Vital Statistics.

The population is given as 8019 as compared with 7930 in 1921. In that year the births were 76 male, 72 female. In 1925 the births were 67 males, 50 females, 7 of them illegitimate.

- The Death Rate in 1921 was 13.9 per 1000.
- The Death Rate in 1925 was 16.08 per 100.
- The Birth Rate in 1921 was 18.6 per 1000.
- The Birth Rate in 1925 was 14.6 per 1000.

The actual figures of the births are 67 males, 50 females. Of these births 7 were illegitimate, of whom one only died. Other deaths of infants under one year (legitimate) were 9. The principal causes of Adults deaths were Tuberculosis (all forms) 10 ; Cancer in all its forms 24 ; Cerebral Haemorrhage ("Stroke") 14 ; Heart Disease 17 ; Pulmonary Diseases 18 (non-tubercular) ; Kidney Disease 5 ; Infantile debility, etc. 5.

The average Birth Rate for the whole County in 1925 was 18.3, the average Death Rate being 12.2 per 1000.

Cancer is on an alarming increase. One may modestly offer a suggestion that dietetic faults may be a contributory factor. It is not by any means uncommon to find young adults of 25 and under supplied with a full set of artificial teeth, due almost certainly to defects in infant feeding. A diet of tinned salmon, tinned pears and stewed tea cannot be said to improve one's digestion and it certainly produces a state of malnutrition in which the body is open to the invasion of any disease. I would suggest, gentlemen, that people should be discouraged from wasting their substance on "tinned muck" and be taught the real dietetic value of a small neck of mutton or shin of beef and crushed bones and to make wholesome broth a staple article of diet—economical and nutritious.

Tuberculosis : The "Memorial" program is being well utilized—cases being sent direct to the T. B. Officer at his various centres. Dr. Lloyd (T.B.) informs me that this district holds a high position in reported cases

There were no deaths from suicide or violence, and no deaths from the ordinary infectious diseases. The only zymotic diseases notified were scarlatina 6 ; Diphtheria 2. Scarlatina is assuming a very mild form—but is none the less treacherous. There are very few of the severe type of 20 years ago and one often has to wait for "peeling" before being certain that the case is not one of ordinary sore throat—but these "mild" cases may, unless well cared for, produce kidney or ear trouble.

Diphtheria : Only an occasional case. The Antitoxin is always used. Occasionally one hears rubbish to the effect that it causes paralysis. My experience is that it is only the very mild cases, too "mild" to be attended to seriously, which result in paralysis, that an uninjected case will produce an intensified progressive form of the disease in the next infected case, and that Antitoxin kills the disease, "melting the membrane as sunshine does snow"—and that it entirely modifies the severity of the Epidemic.

Measles is occasionally quite severe, and I have no doubt along with whooping cough, is one of the early contributing factors to Tubercular lungs—owing to Broncho Pneumonia being so frequent a complication. In the absence of medical attendance it should be remembered that householders are expected to notify infectious disease. May I again remind the community of the necessity for isolation of patients until the infection period has elapsed. In sending half-cured children back to mingle with others, perhaps more delicate, we are potential Cains. We are certainly hygienically our brother's keeper from more than one point of view. It is most strange that a Welsh Rural community, soaked in scriptural love and in religious instincts, should have been so fatalistic in regard to contagious and infectious disease, when one considers the excellent practical teaching and the sound code of sanitation drawn up by that great old M.O.H. and Law-giver Moses.

No woman died in or immediately after childbirth.

Nursing, etc. : There are no changes. The Hospital at Cardigan is being well utilized, and under the "maternal" fostering of Sir John Lynn Thomas, K.C.B., is doing excellent work.

Water : Several small supplies have been improved. Llandyssul supply seems at long last to be in a fair way of settlement. Although analyses have given satisfactory results, Adpar supply, situated in a tilled garden, can not be approved of.

General : On the whole the Sanitary condition of the district is steadily improving. More care should be taken that there should be a proper supply of water within reasonable distance of new-planned residences. There is no chemical river pollution but the riverbanks are disfigured by dumps of broken crockery.

The maritime boundary of the District consists of rocky cliffs and there is practically no coast erosion.

The Sanitary conveniences suggested for Llangranog—and which were adopted by the Council—have never been carried out.

Report of Sanitary Inspector—Mr. J. Penry Lewis.

Water Supplies.

Samples of water taken and analysed by the Clinical Research Association :

Ffynnon Ffeirad, Faerdrefawr, Llandyssul.

Adpar Well, Newcastle Emlyn.

Improvements to Water Supplies of villages within the Rural District :

Banc Llandyfriog (partly by private subscriptions).

Blaencillech, Llandyfriog (partly by private subscriptions).

Tanygroes, Newcastle Emlyn (partly by private subscriptions).

Adpar, Newcastle Emlyn.

Pontshan, Llandyssul (private undertaking).

Drainage.

New drains were laid down at Llandyssul in Seion Road, Penwalce and Well Street.

Steps were taken to construct a 9" drain at Tivy Terrace, Newcastle Emlyn.

Inspections for Nuisances.

No. of Inspections ...	...	...	...	...	120
Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	21
Nuisances without formal notice	...	...	...	...	19
After formal notice...	...	...	...	...	2

Slaughter Houses.

No. on register	...	...	...	...	...	8
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	45
The condition of 2 slaughter houses is still unsatisfactory.						

Cowsheds.

No.	...	...	...	...	...	10
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	24
No improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defects : Insufficient water for flushing the Cowsheds.						

Unfit Dwelling Houses.

No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	45
No of houses recorded under the Housing regulations	...	...	...	...	...	45
No. of houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	28

Remedy of Defects.

No. of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. of representations made with a view of making a closing order	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	1

New Buildings.

Plans approved	...	...	...	...	...	15
Houses under construction	...	...	...	...	...	20
Houses completed	...	...	...	...	...	18

Your obedient servant,

A. T. EVANS.

